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Venezuela's Chavez dead

CARACAS (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lost his battle with cancer yesterday, silencing the leading voice of the Latin American left and plunging his divided oil-rich nation into an uncertain future.

"We have received the toughest and tragic information that... comandante President Hugo Chavez died today at 4:25 pm," a tearful Vice President Nicolas Maduro announced on television, directly from a Caracas military hospital.

"Long live Chavez," the officials surrounding him shouted.

Chavez, who was 58, had been checked into the hospital



fourth round of cancer surgery since June 2011.

After 14 years under the charismatic former paratrooper, Venezuelans now face the prospect of snap elections, with Maduro hand-picked to succeed him.

The once ubiquitous symbol of Latin America's "anti-imperialist" left had disappeared from public view after flown to Cuba on December 10, an unusual absence that fueled rumors about his health.

He was only been seen in a few photos released last month, which showed him in his Havana hospital bed, smiling with his two daughters at his side.

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Aruba to host the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum 2013



Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman was very proud to announce yesterday morning that this year, the annual Green Aruba Energy Conference conducted in the fall, will partner with New Energy Events LLC, to host the 5th Annual Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum, (CREF), the largest such event in the region. They

report attendance of last year's conference was over 400 delegates from 14 countries. This year, they would expect more, as the imperative for harnessing renewable energy sources by Caribbean nations becomes increasingly evident.

Present for the announcement was Energy Events CEO Matthew Perks, who described

Aruba as a "world-class conference destination. It has excellent communications and is fortunate to have a government that is interesting in showcasing the country to the international community...It is just as important to us to bring CREF to a country where we believe the government is working aggressively to move away from fossil fuels and into to types of energy that will be sustainable and affordable in the long term."

Citing the fact that 20% of Aruba's energy is already obtained from renewable sources, with a plan to be 100% renewable by 2020, Mr. Perks declared "The government's plans are ambitious, and look forward to finding a platform through CREF for Aruba to lay its plans before international investors and promote Aruba as a free-investment destination."

"We like to say that CREF



Utilities Chairman Frank Hoevertsz, Matthew Perks, Prime Minister Eman and Minister de Meza

is where Caribbean renewable resources meet international investors and technology. Every constituency we need to transact change and move forward will be in Aruba later this year."

Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Perks agreed that an important issue for the upco-

ming conference will be addressing how to make energy more affordable for regional nations, which affects the majority of the island nations. "The price of electricity is crippling high across the regions, we all know that we need to act now," he continued.

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Aruba honors three local giants at UNOCA office

The government has decreed that the month of March will be dedicated to celebrations and cultural events related to our island. The first event to kick off the celebrations was held last Friday. On the occasion, UNOCA unveiled three monuments of three of Aruba's giants....very outstanding citizens! The monuments are three bronze busts of Padu Lampe, Hubert 'Lio' Booi and the deceased Rufo Wever.

Nilda Koolman of UNOCA, in her message to those present, said: "We kick off this cultural month, popularly known as the month of our Flag and Anthem, with the unveiling of these monuments to three of our great citizens who cover various cultural areas either as musician, painter, author, poet, etc.

"We gather here to honor 2 of the 3 composers of our local anthem, who are still active culturally. This is a moment to, in addition to giving special homage to these 3 great citizens, to also document an important part of our cultural heritage especially for the young generation and others in the future. The young generation will be responsible for passing on this history to the next generation. UNOCA is proud to be part



of this and to make that contribution."

The artwork of the busts is the creation of Maritza Erasmus and the pedestal was cre-

chose to affix the three busts to a moveable boulder. This is because there is a future plan to create a cultural Plaza to honor these 3 giants and



ated by another artist and realized by Dadu Croes and Martin Bermudez. UNOCA

UNOCA wants to offer their support to realizing such a valuable project.

Nilda Koolman made special reference to the word "cordiality" mentioned in our national anthem and in one of Lio Booi's books. The emphasis was on the fact that we must not only be cordial to our visitors but most important to each other. This is especially necessary in these times when technology dominates and takes away from us the personal contact we were so accustomed to.

Continued on page 3



Stellaris Casino appoints two management positions

Henk Reeberg Casino Slots Operations Manager and Elvis Gomez Casino Cage Manager



The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly announces the promotions of Henk Reeberg to Casino Slots Operations Manager and Elvis Gomez to Casino Cage Manager at the Stellaris Casino.

In his new position Henk will be in charge of the overall operations of the Casino Slots department, ensuring the corporate compliance and local gaming regulations, monitoring performance of the Slots department and the daily operations of his team. Elvis will oversee all the daily operations of the Casino Cage department, maintaining and controlling all cage handlings and inventories of the casino.

Henk started his career with the Stellaris Casino in August of 2006 as a Casino Income Auditor, a position he held for over three years. In February of 2010, he was promoted to the Casino Accounting Supervisor. After one year Henk switched over to the Casino Slots department, where he was appointed to the position of Assistant Manager of the Casino Slot Operations, overseeing the Casino Slots department and achieved impressive

results with his team for the casino. Henk was nominated Manager of the Quarter in 2012.

Elvis began his Marriott career in Accounting as an Accounts Payable Clerk on February 24, 2009.

Continued on page 4

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Roberto “Boedoem” Brown committed to Aruba



Aruba Tourism Authority is continuing their campaign of focusing on key individuals in our community who are actively involved in and are com-

mitted to our tourism either directly or indirectly. The focus today is on Roberto Leonardo Brown, best known as “Boedoem.” Boedoem excels in his

commitment to Aruba.

Boedoem is employed at the Logoshop at Alhambra, but is a well-known person in our Carnival. Boedoem loves the Aruban culture and our Carnival. He says: ...“I live and eat Carnival. Everything I see I want to transform into an outfit for Carnival.”

How did he get the name Boedoem? He says his nickname he got when he was 7 years old. In those days they sold the double shot fireworks at Christmas time, and he lit one of these upside down. But, by the time my friends could tell me that it was lit upside down...it was too late. I turned my back, began to run, but the firework was already lit and exploded, and hit me in the back. From that day on the name “Boedoem” was stuck on me.

A few of Boedoem’s special works of art are his dolls dressed in Carnival’s outfits. He has been making these dolls for the past eight years. His inspiration came from his daughter who asked him one day why he couldn’t make dresses for her dolls. One day he tried his hands at it and today his dolls are on the market. They spend family time every night making these dolls which they call “Caboem” dolls. The name is a combination of Carlos and Boedoem, because Carlos (Tromp) is his right hand man in Carnival.

To date, Boedoem has made over 130 dolls of different variations and outfits. His dolls are very attractive and very popular items during the Carubbian Festival.

Our tourists are delighted with their beauty and art work.

Locals also enjoy his art work, which makes Boedoem very happy. He says...“I am committed to Aruba and as long as God gives me the strength and health I will continue contributing my art by which I am known to Carnival. I will continue to help wherever I can to help Aruba continue to thrive.”

Boedoem is yet another one of Aruba’s faithful and dedicated ambassadors who make a real difference in promoting our culture and tourism.

Aruba honors three local giants...

Continued from page 2



Maritza Erasmus spoke briefly about her role in creating the three busts and how she encountered several challenges along the way, especially with the bust of Rufo Wever. She does not know Wever personally and had to depend on several photos in order to create this bust.

The concept of the pedestal, the boulder that the busts are affixed to, is to bring all the elements of our people, which are in our national anthem, into a visible format. Different types of stones reflected the different areas on Aruba and together create our people.

We dedicate attention to our island, our national symbols which identify our island. In the past Aruba could have celebrated our National Day in

just one day, but today we can no longer do so, because we have so much and so many reasons to celebrate; hence, the reason for proclaiming the month of March as our National month, according to Minister of Culture, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer. She also mentioned that next week an important law will be adjusted to incorporate the Owl as Aruba’s national symbol. The month of March is definitely full of cultural activities for big and small. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these activities as much as is possible.

UNOCA was greatly praised for their important initiative and the honor bestowed on three well deserving and outstanding Aruban citizens.



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Whispers from Aruba



She was in the arms of her protector.
The little 6 year old Angel clung around her neck.
Her little heart beating a thousand times a minute.
Shots rang out. Bullets that could topple a huge elephant penetrated the little frail body of the Angel.

Her body went lame and her grip loosened.
Two Angels down.

Now the journey to heaven has started.
The time of denial and not accepting has begun.
Days have turned into weeks and weeks
into more than two months.

Today they are coping with acceptance.
Today they plan to live the life so that
they will meet the little Angel again.
Here we are hurting because we cannot give you
a big "Abrazo" and whisper softly "we love you too."

By: Roland W. Peterson

Stellaris casino appoints...

Continued from page 2

In March of 2012 he joined the Food and Beverage team and was promoted to Food and Beverage Storeroom Supervisor, where he succeeded to achieve an admirable level of zero variance in the receiving process and daily operations. Since September 2012, Elvis has played a key role at the food storeroom overseeing the purchasing process as well as playing an active leadership role during the food storeroom renovation. Elvis was recognized as Marriott's Associate of the Year 2011 and won the Shoco Award for Supervisor of the Year 2012.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino congratulates Henk and Elvis and wishes them the best of luck as they take on their new responsibilities.

Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum

The CREF/Aruba Green Energy Conference will take place Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 9-11th at the Westin Aruba Resort in Palm Beach. The CREF website also went live on March 5. More information regarding past speakers and CREF events can be viewed here: <http://www.caribbeanenergyforum.com>. This year's agenda and roster of speakers is yet to be confirmed, but registration forms can be filled in on the site.

Joining the Prime Minister and Mr. Perks for the announcement was the Minister of Finance, Telecommunications, Energy and Utilities, Mike de Meza and Director of Utilities Aruba, Frank Hoevertsz.

Rosalie Klein

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa on Aruba achieves Travelife Gold award

The Travelife Gold award was honored to Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa just during the month of January 2013. Travelife is a travel industry-organized organization, where tour operators in Europe and accommodation providers are committed to providing holidaymakers with more sustainable hotels. They work in partnership to protect the environment and the well-being of people, including their staff, customers and suppliers, and so making a big contribution to sustainable tourism.

"We are very excited to have achieved this award" says Edgar Roelofs – the resort's general manager. "Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa already has been part of the Green Globe Certification Program since 2003 with a Green Globe Gold Certificate and it is an honor that we achieved the Travelife Gold status during our first audit" he adds.

Lidia Halley, environmental coordinator at the resort, mentions that the resort has met all Travelife requirements, displays a strong commitment to sustainability and constantly looks for new opportunities for

improvement of the hotel's environmental and social performance. Travelife International Certification helps hotels to improve how they manage their environmental and social impacts, such as the way their energy or water consumption, or how they treat the people they employ or the local community where they operate.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is located along Aruba's widest stretch of beach and renowned Eagle Beach on Aruba. The ultimate Caribbean vacation experience begins at this intimate, 2-story boutique resort an ideal place for romantic and rejuvenating getaways. The 72 Deluxe Ocean and Garden View Rooms are newly renovated in an inviting, contemporary Island décor and feature top-notch amenities to make your stay relaxing and enjoyable. Rooms are cool and comfortable with soft linens and a bathroom featuring a soothing waterfall shower. As a health-oriented resort Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa also offers an exotic beach-side spa facility and a host of yoga & Pilates classes.



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Ms. Canada Volleyball Tournament raises \$9,000 for island foundations

Michelle Begin of Ottawa, Canada and her husband Jean have been vacationing on Aruba for over twenty years, making friends and connecting with the community. "I spend about five weeks on the island during the winter, and I am not the sort of person to just sit around. I see people who need help and I just have to do something," she told THE MORNING NEWS.

In 2012 she organized her first fundraising beach volley-

ball tournament, which was a great success; edition number two on March 3 was literally twice as nice! The Begins acknowledged this time around they doubled the funds raised over last year, which will be applied to purchase necessities for some worthy causes.

Buster's Garage Sports Bar, attached to the Trop Casino, hosted an informal get together, during which Michelle handed over a donation to Deputy Commissioner of Po-

lice Trudy Hassell. The funds will go towards the "Let's Talk" program founded by Officer Hassell, working with wayward island youth.

A shopping trip is planned for Casa Cuna Progresso, a live-in center for children ages infant to seven years, from troubled homes. Last year, they received toys, formula, diapers, clothing and thousands in incidentals.

Ambiente Feliz, a full time home for mentally challenged adults, will get the industrial dishwasher of their dreams. Last year, it was tools and plants to produce the beautiful garden that now surrounds the property.

Other groups have been singled out to benefit from the event, including local girl's softball teams, who will receive uniforms and equipments.

Michelle took the opportunity to express her heartfelt thanks to all the local volunteers who assisted in making the day a success, particularly Tropical Bottling/Balashi Brewery and Aruba Trading Company, represented by Regine Nicolaas and Gleen De Kaey,



Michelle with Deputy Commissioner of Police Trudy Hassell.

respectively. Tee shirts sponsored by the Tropicana Resort and GM Bryan Stedeford were distributed to all volunteers. She also had a special thank you for Marc from the Royal

Dutch Marines, who put a platoon to work setting up all the courts, tents and tables, "I could not have done it without them; they performed miracles!"

Rosalie Klein



Michelle and Jean with sponsors

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela's Chavez dead

Continued from page 1

The government had sent mixed signals about the president's health for weeks, warning one day that he was battling for his life, yet insisting as recently as last weekend that Chavez was still in charge and giving orders.

But the opposition repeatedly accused the government of lying about the president's condition.

Chavez will be mourned by many of the country's poor, who revered the self-styled revolutionary for using the country's oil riches to fund popular housing, health, food and education programs.

And like-minded Latin American leaders like Cuba's Raul Castro, Ecuador's Rafael Correa and Bolivia's Evo Morales have lost a close friend who used his diplomatic muscle and cheap oil to shore up their rule.

Chavez died five months after winning an October election, overcoming a resurgent opposition and public frustration over a rising murder rate, regular blackouts and soaring inflation.

He missed his swearing-in for a new six-year term on January 10, but the Supreme Court approved an indefinite delay. Under Venezuela's constitution an election must be held within 30 days of the president's death.

A new election could offer another shot at the presidency to Henrique Capriles, the op-

position leader who lost to Chavez in October.

Until picking Maduro, 50, as his political heir, Chavez had never allowed other leaders to emerge within his United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV).

He used the ballot box to consolidate his power and push through policies that drove a wedge into Venezuelan society, alienating the wealthy with expropriations while wooing the poor with social handouts.

Chavez won re-election in October vowing to make his self-styled 21st century revolution "irreversible."

The opposition had accused Chavez of misusing public funds for his campaign and dominating the airwaves while forcing government workers to attend rallies through intimidation.

His death will particularly affect Cuba's communist regime, whose moribund state-run economy has relied heavily on Chavez's oil generosity.

Under Fidel Castro's mentoring, Chavez became the face of the radical left in Latin America, with regular diatribes against US "imperialism" and the forging of ties with regimes at odds with Washington in Syria, Libya and Iran.

But despite tense relations with the United States, Chavez continued to export one million barrels of oil per day up north.

Massive winter storm grounds 1,200 US flights

CHICAGO (AFP) - A massive winter storm pounding the northern United States yesterday grounded over 1,200 flights, closed hundreds of schools and made roadways and highways impassable.

More than a dozen states from Minnesota to Virginia were in the path of the huge storm which had already dumped as much as two feet (60 centimeters) of snow in Montana and 15 inches (38 centimeters) in North Dakota.

Emergency crews reco-

vered the body of a truck driver whose rig slipped off a Wisconsin highway and ended up in a river and were searching for his passenger, WQOW news reported.

Minnesota's highway patrol responded to 122 crashes and 112 vehicles that had spun off the road between 5 am and 10:40 am, but luckily there were no fatalities and just 16 injuries, KARE news reported.

Hundreds of plows were working the Windy City's roads and freeways but with up

to 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow expected, there was no way they could keep up.

More than 800 flights were grounded at Chicago's O'Hare airport -- a major hub -- while another 240 were cancelled at Chicago Midway. Over 100 flights were cancelled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, according to FlightAware.

The storm was expected to merge with a second system over the Appalachians late Tuesday night or early today.

US calls for 'next level' sanctions on N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United States yesterday called on the UN Security Council to hit North Korean diplomats and "illicit" cash transfers with sanctions to step up pressure over the isolated state's nuclear program.

US ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said China had agreed on "next level" sanctions against the North and that she hopes for a vote by the 15-member council this week.

The text of a draft resolution was handed to other council members at a closed meeting yesterday.

The proposed measures would "take the UN sanctions imposed on North Korea to the next level, breaking new ground and imposing significant new legal obligations," Rice told reporters after the short meeting.

"For the first time ever, this resolution targets the illicit activities of North Korean diplomatic personnel, North Korean banking relationships, illicit transfers of bulk cash and new travel restrictions."

She said that if passed, the measures "will significantly impede North Korea's ability

to develop further its illicit nuclear and ballistic missile programs."

North Korea has already threatened to heighten tensions over the proposed UN measures. Rice said the resolution vows "further significant

measures in the event of another launch or nuclear test."

The United States and China have been negotiating the measures since the North staged its third nuclear test on February 12.



CIUDAD JUÁREZ, Mexico -- A group of agents of the Specialized Bureau of Attention to Women Victims of Gender Crime and academy cadets of the Municipal Police carried out sweeps in search of human remains of disappeared women yesterday, in Valle de Juarez, Mexico. About 500 people walked about five miles to find human remains. This is the third thorough search in the valley -- the first was in February 2012 and another in January 2013 -- during which 25 women bones were found and nine of them already identified on DNA studies. According to ONG reports about 400 women were murdered in Ciudad Juarez since 2006. (AFP PHOTO)

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Health & Living

Designer drugs on the rise, serious health risk: UN report



VIENNA (AFP) - Designer drugs are multiplying at a worrying rate and increasingly sending users to hospital, a UN-affiliated report said Tuesday, calling for international efforts to stem the spread of these substances.

"In recent years, there has been an unprecedented surge in the abuse of new psychoactive substances," often called

"legal highs" or "designer drugs," the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said in its annual report.

"In Europe alone almost one new substance is appearing every week. Previously, between 2000 and 2005 there were an average of five notifications of new substances per year," added INCB head Raymond Yans.

mond Yans.

Experts estimate thousands of such drugs currently exist on the market, the report said.

"As abuse of these substances has increased, so too has the number of users who have experienced grave health consequences or even suffered death due to exposure to them," it went on, pointing to "marked increases in emergency room visits for adverse health reactions" and "significant increases in calls to poison treatment centres."

Aggravating the problem further was the fact that these drugs were not subject to international control regimes and were readily available on the Internet, requiring states and international institutions to find new ways to identify the drugs and stop their distribution, the UN-affiliated INCB said.

Another increasing problem was the rise in prescription drug abuse, including painkillers, sedatives and others used to treat epilepsy, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and mental illnesses.

The Board makes annual recommendations on narcotics policy to states but also international institutions, including the United Nations.

Ikea pulls almond cakes after bacteria found

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Swedish furniture giant Ikea pulled a batch of almond cakes from its restaurants in 23 countries on Tuesday after Chinese authorities said they contained coliform bacteria, normally present in faecal matter.

The Swedish-made cakes had failed tests "for containing an excessive level of coliform bacteria, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine," the Shanghai Daily website wrote.

Ikea said 1,800 Taarta Chokladkrokant cakes -- described on its website as an almond cake with chocolate,

butter cream and butterscotch -- were destroyed in December after being intercepted by Chinese customs.

A microbiologist at the Swedish National Food Agency, Mats Lindblad, said coliform bacteria "could be an indication of faecal contamination though not always".

He said the bacteria were normally not dangerous for consumers.

Ikea last week pulled its trademark meatballs off the shelves in 25 countries after Czech authorities found traces of horse DNA in a batch of one-kilogramme (2.2-pound) bags of frozen meatballs.



Bayer vows to fight for patent on anti-cancer drug in India

FRANKFURT (AFP) - German pharmaceuticals giant Bayer, maker of Aspirin, vowed Monday to fight a ruling by the patent authorities in India allowing a local company to produce and sell a generic copy of its anti-cancer drug Nexavar.

India's Intellectual Property Appellate Board has rejected an appeal by Bayer against the decision by a local patent authority to grant a license to generics manufacturer Natco Pharma, allowing it to copy Nexavar.

The patent authority allowed Natco to make copies of Nexavar on the grounds that Bayer's drug is too expensive for most people in India.

The license allows Natco to sell generic versions of the drug at a fraction of Bayer's price.

But Bayer said in a statement that it "strongly disagrees with the conclusions of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board."

The challenges faced by the

Indian healthcare system had "little or nothing to do with patents on pharmaceutical products as all products on India's essential drug list are not patented," Bayer said.

One of the main barriers to access to medicines in developing countries such as India was the lack of adequate healthcare services and infrastructure ensuring that drugs would effectively bring treatment to those who need it.

"The order of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board weakens the international patent system and endangers pharmaceutical research," Bayer argued.

The limited period of marketing exclusivity made possible by patents ensures that the costs associated with the research and development of innovative medicines can be recovered, it said.

Bayer said it has a patient access programme in place in India for Nexavar, which "significantly reduces the cost of the monthly treatment."



Taj Mahal
Taste of India

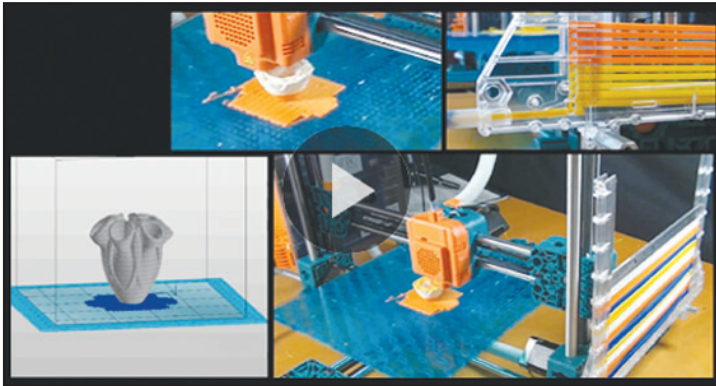
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Sci-Tech

3D printer wows world's top high-tech fair



HANOVER, Germany (AFP) - Of all the futuristic gadgets on show at CeBIT, the world's top high-tech fair, few drew bigger crowds Tuesday than a 3D printer creating solid objects in plastic from a computer display.

The machine, developed by German company "fabbster", melts plastic and then builds up incredibly fine "layers" just 88 microns (0.088 millimetres) thick, eventually producing a solid physical object with impressive detail.

The system is currently being used mainly by small businesses, architects, designers and engineers, explained Fabian Grupp, project manager.

"You can really make anything you can think of," he enthused. Coming soon is the

ability to create multi-coloured objects and use different materials within the same "print-out".

The time varies from object to object, but the machine takes around one hour to "print out" a small plastic bottle.

This machine retails for 1,500 euros (\$2,000), making it attractive only for "ambitious" hobbyists, he acknowledged, although he said the price would inevitably come down as the technology improves.

The CeBIT, the world's biggest fair for the high-tech sector is taking place until March 9 in the northern German city of Hanover.

Some 4,100 exhibitors from around 70 countries are expected to set up shop in the cavernous halls of the Hanover showgrounds.

US Court mulling whether DNA swabs violate privacy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court is considering whether taking DNA swabs during an arrest violates privacy, in what one justice said was the court's "most important criminal procedure case" in decades.

The nine judges seemed split on the issue during the hearing to decide whether civil liberties trumped the interest of solving crimes.

Alonzo Jay King was arrested in April 2009 in Maryland for acts of aggression. A saliva sample was taken and sent to a lab, as allowed under Maryland law, without a warrant and even before the suspect had been indicted.

A month after the arrest, the DNA analysis came back, linking King to a sample taken from the victim of an unsolved rape.

With that DNA evidence, King was convicted and received a life sentence -- but he appealed, invoking the Consti-

tution's Fourth Amendment, which protects against "unreasonable searches and seizures."

The Maryland appeals court agreed with him, saying the Fourth Amendment forbade taking the DNA sample without his permission or a warrant. Maryland, backed by the federal government, then took the case to the nation's top court.

Michael Dreeben, a lawyer for the government, argued that "the state has a compelling interest in taking information from individuals arrested."

But Chief Justice John Roberts, also a conservative, expressed concern that allowing samples to be taken during arrests could lead to a domino effect in which they would be taken from "anybody pulled over for a traffic violation."

The high court is expected to give its decision before the end of June.



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'Couch potato' - rowing chair energises tech fair

HANOVER, Germany (AFP) - It looks like an ordinary black, comfy chair, perfect for a relaxing hour or two in front of the television.

But things are rarely as they seem at the CeBIT, the world's top high-tech fair, and this humble-looking chair is part-nurse, part-fitness coach designed for the increasing hoards of elderly in Germany and across the developed world.

Highly intelligent sensors in the chair register the owner's weight, blood pressure, heart rate and posture and builds a

database of vital signs over a period of time.

And if the chair notices a few extra pounds, it flips into fitness coach mode and suggests a series of exercises.

The comfy arm-rests convert into a fully functioning rowing machine and the user "rows" down a river displayed on a big screen.

"Even in this mode, the sensors record all the vital signs and the health assistant notes if the person is not performing the exercises properly," said Sven Feilner from the Fraunhofer Institute as he put himself through his paces.

Users can link up with other users and "race" against each other or simply follow a tailor-made fitness programme, monitored closely by the chair.

The chair exercises the mind as well, with a "Simon Says"-

type memory game in which the user shifts his or her weight in the chair in response to a random pattern.

"We're trying to make people more active, especially given our ageing population," explained project leader Matthias Struck.

Struck's team is working on bringing the prototype model unveiled at the CeBIT onto the market in "one, maybe two years," he said. The chairs could be particularly useful in old peoples' homes, he suggested.

One thing that might make you sit up straight: the price.

"Already without the technology, these chairs aren't particularly cheap," said Struck. "I would estimate 2,000-3,000 euros (\$2,600-3,900) and then you're probably looking at the same again for all the sensors."

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ACROSS

1. Fireside ____
5. Common article
8. Dime, e.g.
12. Witching ____
13. Eighth mo.
14. "____ Tired" (2 wds.)
15. Helpful
17. Dryer's outlet
18. Seed vessel
19. Model Carol
20. Stains
21. "____ and Old Lace"

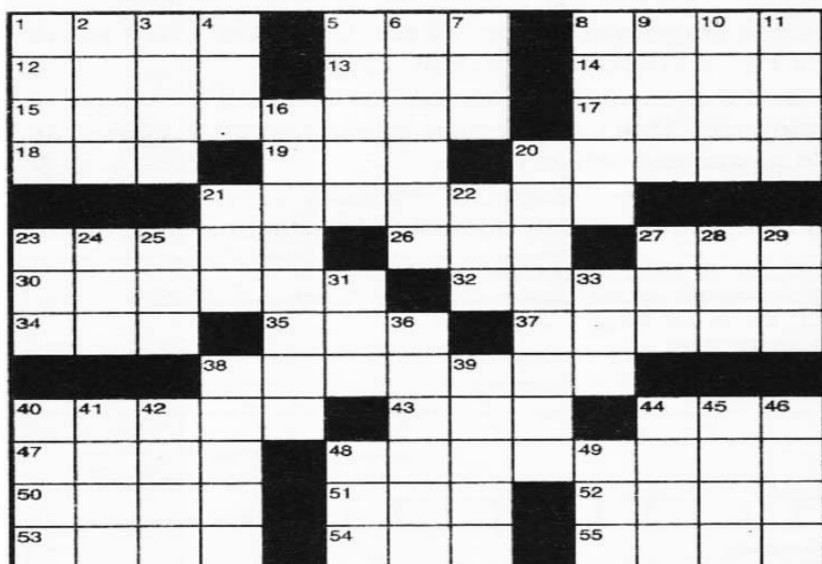
23. Change
26. Garnet's color
27. Computer co. inits.
30. Coined money
32. Sent an invoice
34. Woodsman's tool
35. Bk. after Leviticus
37. Lacks
38. Tweaked a cheek
40. Salami variety
43. Boxing results (abbr.)
44. Yr. divisions
47. Certain poems
48. Residents of Moscow
50. Senses of self

51. Letter after bee
52. Eating plan
53. End of a New Year's song title
54. Question's opposite (abbr.)
55. Juan's cheers

DOWN

1. Mince
2. Rail rider
3. New Year's song beginning
4. Angle starter
5. Dog waggles
6. Actress Kim ____
7. Hen's creation

8. Pertaining to a city
9. Prophetic sign
10. "____ It Romantic?"
11. Have-____ (those without)
16. Corsage flower
20. Neatness
21. Toiling insect
22. Omaha's state (abbr.)
23. Med. group
24. Recipe instruction
25. WSW's opp.
27. French island
28. Cot
29. Drs.
31. Pester for payment
33. Went first
36. Poet Rod
38. Sheriff's force
39. Watering devices
40. Moves
41. Nervous
42. Sign illuminator
44. Howl
45. Deep ____ bend
46. Fast jets (abbr.)
48. Nipper's company (abbr.)
49. Wedding response (2 wds.)



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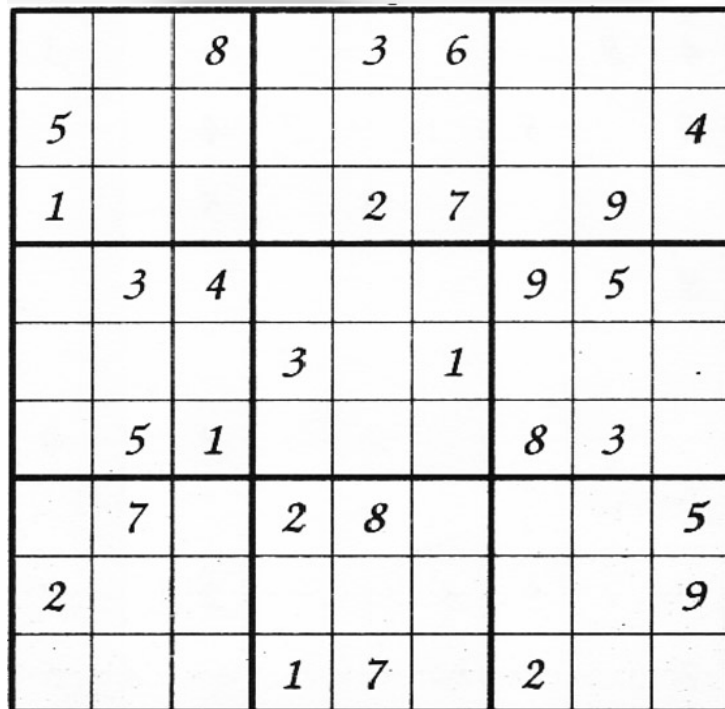
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6	8	4	5	9	3	1	2	7
3	7	1	6	8	2	9	4	5
2	5	8	7	6	4	1	3	9
9	2	6	1	3	5	8	7	4
1	5	6	2	9	8	7	4	3
8	6	9	4	2	3	5	1	7
7	2	5	8	1	6	4	9	3
4	1	3	9	5	7	8	2	6

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Shell decries 'unprecedented' oil theft

LAGOS (AFP) - Oil giant Shell on Monday raised alarm over "unprecedented" oil theft in Nigeria, particularly related to the sabotage of one of its key pipelines, and called for urgent action to address the problem.

Meanwhile they warned it may not meet production targets on Bonny Light crude in Nigeria after it shut down a key pipeline that has been repeatedly hit by sabotage and theft.

The cause of the latest leak on the Nembe Creek Trunkline, discovered on Sunday, was not yet clear. The line has in the past been hit repeatedly by oil thieves seeking crude for sale on the black market.

Shell's Nigeria unit "declared force majeure on Bonny Light offtake programme effective 1600 hours Nigerian time today, 5th March, following the shutdown of Nembe Creek Trunkline (NCTL) after a leak was observed on Sunday," it said.

"The cause will be determined by a Joint Investigation Visit, which will be scheduled once the leak point has been excavated."

Force majeure is a legal term releasing a company from contractual obligations due to circumstances beyond its control. Bonny Light is one of the main grades of crude oil produced in Nigeria.

On Monday, Shell raised alarm over oil theft of the Nembe Creek line, adding it would not rule out closing down the pipeline if such attacks continued.

The comments were the latest from the industry over the problem of oil theft, which has been estimated to cost Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil producer, some \$6 billion (4.6 billion euros) per year.

Output in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, has been at around 2.0 million barrels per day.

A 2009 amnesty deal led to a sharp decline in unrest in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, but criminal activity has since flourished.

While Shell blames most of the spills on sabotage, activists argue that the company does not do enough to prevent such incidents and effectively clean up the damage when they do occur.

Dow smashes record as US stocks surge

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Dow Jones Industrial Average soared to an all-time record high Tuesday, passing the five-year-old mark to leave behind the deep losses of the economic crisis.

At the closing bell the Dow was up 125.95 points for the day, a 0.89 percent gain, to

14,253.77, easily beating the former closing record of 14,164.53 set on October 9, 2007.

The Dow also set a new intraday high mark, hitting 14,286.37 before easing off late in the session.

The broader S&P 500 remained nearly two percent

shy of its October 2007 record, but gained a solid 14.59 points (0.96 percent) to 1,539.79.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite outpaced both, helped by a 2.6 percent rise in Apple shares, adding 42.10 (1.32 percent) to end at 3,224.13.

Tech sector rides on rich list

NEW YORK (AFP) - America's technology sector remained a driving force for the world's billionaires, led by Microsoft's Bill Gates and other familiar names.

Gates, the world's second richest individual on the Forbes list, saw his fortune rise by some \$6 billion to \$67 billion.

That allowed Gates to widen his lead among tech billionaires over Oracle founder Larry Ellison, with a net worth of \$43 billion -- making him number five overall on the Forbes list.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos, number 19 overall on the list, was third in the tech sector with holdings valued at \$25.2 bil-

lion. Google's chief executive Larry Page and co-founder Sergei Brin were close behind with \$23 billion and \$22.8 billion, respectively.

Despite his company's woes, Dell founder Michael Dell held a fortune worth \$15.3 billion, making him the sixth wealthiest tech billionaire.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer was not far behind at \$15.2 billion, as was a co-founder of the software firm, Paul Allen, with \$15 billion, much of that in other holdings including sports teams.

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg has seen some of the wildest swings in recent years but ranked ninth among tech

billionaires with a worth estimated at \$13.3 billion.

Zuckerberg's fortune had been pegged at \$17.5 billion a year ago, and it could have moved higher after the social network's public offering, but slid to \$9.4 billion with the slump in Facebook shares, which have since seen a rebound.

The wealthiest non-American among the tech billionaires was Indian software tycoon Azim Premji, who inherited a cooking oil company and transformed it into India's third-biggest outsourcing services firm, Wipro.

Forbes gave an estimate of \$11.2 billion for the net worth of Premji, who last month donated \$2.3 billion to an education charity, reportedly the biggest charitable donation in the country's recent history.

European car slump to last 4-5 more years: Ford

GENEVA (AFP) - The European car market still has a long, bumpy road ahead before it can hope to again see sales numbers approaching the pre-crisis glory days, Ford's Euro-

pean chief said Tuesday.

For this year, Ford expects the European market as a whole to see between 13 and 14 million new car sales, after 14 million vehicles were sold

on the continent in 2012.

The US carmaker has been accumulating losses in the region for years, just like its compatriot General Motors and European competitors such as Renault, Peugeot-PSA and Fiat.

Ford has already warned that it will suffer a loss of \$2.0 billion this year, after bathing \$1.75-billion in the red in 2012.

But Odell stressed Tuesday that the expected loss this year is "different in nature than 2012," since it is partially due to the pending closure of two plants in Britain and one in Belgium, which will leave 6,200 people out of work.

He reiterated that the carmaker expects to see its European activities return to profitability by 2015.



NEW YORK, NY -(AFP) : Traders work on the floor of The New York Stock Exchange on March 5, 2013 in New York City. Within the first few minutes of trading Tuesday, the Dow gained nearly 100 points, rising as high as 14,226.20, a new record high.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

M	I	T	E	L	L	A	S	B	R	O
R	O	E	D	I	E	G	O	E	E	L
I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O	E	E
L	I	D	T	I	F	F				
S	P	A	D	E	B	O	Y	D		
H	A	N	R	E	A	P	E	R	I	C
O	I	N	K	T	R	I	S	O	S	A
O	N	E	A	C	E	E	S	A	L	L
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T	A	L	C	R	I	N				
A	I	R	H	I	M	A	L	A	Y	A
I	L	L	E	L	O	P	E	E	R	E
L	E	O	D	E	N	T	S	A	G	E

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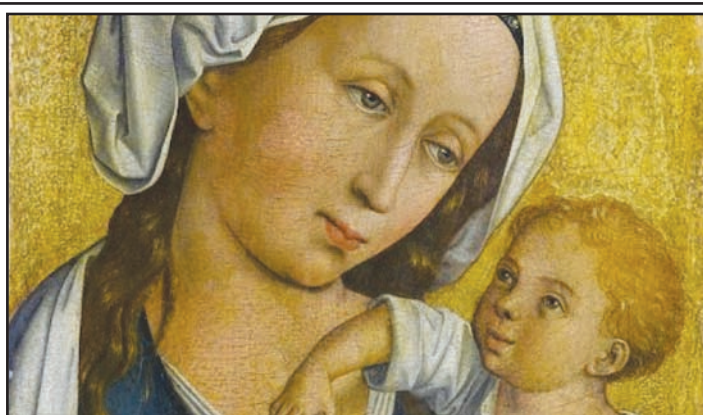
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MONTREAL (AFP) - A German museum for the first time on Tuesday returned a painting despoiled by the Nazis to the estate of a late German Jewish art dealer. Concordia University in Montreal, acting on behalf of the executors of the estate of Max Stern (1904-1987), announced Staatsgalerie Stuttgart's restitution of an early Northern Renaissance painting belonging to Stern. The painting of the Virgin and Child, attributed to the Master of Flemalle (1375-1444), identified by historians as Robert Campin, was donated to the Stuttgart museum after the Second World War. Since 2003, Concordia has sought to recover more than 400 paintings lost to Stern at the hands of the Nazis through a forced sale in 1937. Stern himself shuttered his Dusseldorf gallery in December of that year, and fled to London before settling in Canada. While in London he was forced to liquidate even more paintings, including the Virgin and Child, in order to buy a German exit visa for his mother. He would go on to become one of Canada's most important art dealers and collectors.



NEW DELHI (AFP) - Best-selling Indian author won a \$1 million advance for the South Asian rights to a new trilogy, the biggest such deal ever struck, his publishers said. India's Westland Press has paid 50 million rupees to Amish Tripathi, a banker-turned-writer, as an advance for the South Asian rights to his next series of three books. Tripathi saw half a million copies of his recent mythological fantasy "The Oath of the Vayuputras" -- the final book of his last trilogy --- fly off the shelves within a day of its release last week, local media reported. Tripathi's trilogy is based on the premise that the Hindu gods were not mythical beings but creatures of flesh and blood.

Record 1 in 5 of world lawmakers women



GENEVA (AFP) - The share of women in the world's parliaments has risen to a new high topping 20 percent, with quotas the driving force, the International Parliamentary Union said yesterday.

"Since parliaments exist, this is the first time in history that there's been one woman for every four men," said Anders Johnsson, head of the Geneva-based IPU, which groups 162 national legislatures.

The global average share of

women in parliaments stood at 20.3 percent in 2012, up from 19.5 percent in 2011, the IPU said, ahead of the UN-sponsored International Women's Day on March 8.

Of the 48 countries which held elections last year, 22 used quotas of some form, including Senegal, Algeria, the Netherlands, France and South Korea.

Where quotas were set down in law, women took an average 24 percent of the seats, while voluntary quotas

produced a rate of 22 percent.

In countries without a quota, women took just 12 percent of seats.

"Although quotas remain contentious in some parts of the world, they remain key to progress on a fundamental component of democracy -- gender parity in political representation," Johnsson said.

Johnsson said research showed that a "critical mass" of 30 percent was needed for women to influence the legislative process.

"When you have those kinds of numbers, the agenda tends to change. I'm not talking about a women's agenda, but a gender perspective," he explained.

Nordic countries, have long boasted the world's highest proportion of women in their parliaments, had an average of 42 percent in 2012.

Europe's overall rate was 23.2 percent, behind the Americas' 24.1 percent.

Women accounted for 20.4 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's lawmakers, and for 17.9 percent in Asia.

In the Pacific, the figure was 15.3 percent -- and just three percent excluding Australia and New Zealand.

Arab states trailed with 13.2 percent, the IPU noted, saying the region had failed to deliver on the promises of democratic change heralded by the Arab Spring.

The notable exception was Algeria, with 31.6 percent, thanks to its quota.

Cardinal electors send Benedict XVI telegramme of thanks

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Cardinals charged with electing a successor to Benedict XVI sent the former pontiff a telegramme on Tuesday which thanked him for his ministry and expressed the gratitude of the whole Roman Catholic Church.

"The cardinal fathers, gathered at the Vatican for the general congregations in view of the next conclave, send you their devoted greetings," said the telegramme, which was written by electors attending pre-conclave meetings in the Vatican.

They also expressed their gratitude "for your example of generous pastoral care for the good of the Church and the world," in the message sent to Benedict, who retired as pope

on Thursday.

"With their gratitude they hope to represent the recognition of the entire Church for your tireless work in the vineyard of the lord," it said.

"The members of the college of cardinals trust in your prayers for them, as well as for the whole Church".

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese."

This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food,

without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily**, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Sport

Olympics: Japan Inc. ready to back Tokyo Games

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's corporate giants are ready to chip in for another Summer Olympics in Tokyo in hopes the Games will provide the same economic boost as the 1964 edition, Toyota's chairman said Tuesday.

Despite years of deflation that has forced big Japanese companies to reduce sports sponsorships including the ending of Panasonic's deal with golf star Ryo Ishikawa, Fujio Cho said Japan Inc. would bring plenty to the table.

"If Tokyo gets the 2020 Olympics, I believe businesses will become sponsors and support them," the Toyota chairman said after meeting a team from the International Olympic Committee who are evaluating Tokyo's bid.

"The Japanese economy soared very quickly after 1964," Cho, 76, told reporters.

"I don't think it will do quite the same again but I have no doubt it will provide a boost," said Cho, citing the spin-off demand for new products and the fillip to tourism.

He added that many companies in Japan have a record of involvement in sport, including Toyota which has connections with motorsport, rugby, basketball, softball, long-distance running and football.

"Many companies are top sponsors of the IOC and part-

ners of the JOC (Japanese Olympic Committee)."

The Toyota boss was among business leaders who briefed the 14-member inspection team on finance and marketing, two of the 14 themes the three candidate cities outlined in reports to the IOC last month.

After four days in Tokyo, the team will visit Madrid and Istanbul later this month before drawing up a technical report on the bids for the 101 IOC members who will vote to choose the 2020 host on September 7.

The Japanese government assured the IOC that it would cover any cost over-runs in organising the Olympics.

Tokyo Governor Naoki Inose reminded them that the city had a \$4.3 billion reserve fund for construction of Olympic infrastructure, according to an official of the Tokyo bid committee.

The committee has estimated the 2020 Games' effect on the domestic economy as worth \$38 billion with the creation of more than 150,000 jobs.

Financial health is also a strong point in Istanbul's bid as Turkey has enjoyed years of high economic growth. But Madrid is struggling as Spain battles a recession and high unemployment while slashing spending.

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Football: Real Madrid beat Man United in Champions League

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Cristiano Ronaldo scored the decisive goal as Real Madrid controversially came from behind to win 2-1 at Manchester United on Tuesday and reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

United's defeat meant that Ryan Giggs' 1,000th appearance in senior football ended in disappointment, while Jose

Mourinho's Madrid can dream of a 10th European title after reinvigorating their season in recent weeks.

United manager Alex Ferguson sprang a major surprise by naming Wayne Rooney on the substitutes' bench, but Giggs was included in the starting XI as he became only the third British outfield player to play in 1,000 games.



Real Madrid's Argentine forward Gonzalo Higuain celebrates setting up his team's second goal



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo is challenged by Manchester United's Rafael.

A wave of applause for Ronaldo rippled around the ground at kick-off and the Madrid number seven unexpectedly found himself in direct opposition to Giggs, who started the match in an unfamiliar role on the right flank.

Mourinho had reacted to Nani's dismissal by introducing Modric in place of Arbeloa and the Croatian had an immediate impact, darting into space and arrowing a superb 25-yard shot past de Gea via the right-hand upright

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NBA: Heat set club record with 15th consecutive win

MINNEAPOLIS (AFP) - Dwyane Wade and LeBron James starred as the Miami Heat won a franchise record 15th consecutive game on Monday with a 97-81 win over a depleted Minnesota Timberwolves.

Wade shot 15-of-20 from the field and also added 10 assists for a 32-point haul while a hobbling James finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Heat recorded a comfortable win.

James was playing with a sore left knee after wrenching it in Sunday's tense 99-93 win over the New York Knicks.

Allen had 13 points to help defending National Basketball



LeBron James #6 of the Miami Heat dunks the ball

Association champion Miami eclipse their previous club mark of 14 straight wins, set between December 6, 2004 and January 1, 2005.

Allen said the Heat can't afford to get complacent because other teams have no trouble getting motivated to face the reigning champions.

"It is a process," Allen said of trying to repeat. "When you make it all the way you forget about the tough days."

"You can't get bored with the process. No win is greater than the next. We have got to start every game the same way. Allen said Miami recognized they were now the team every rival wanted to beat.

Derrick Williams finished with a season-high 25 points, while Ricky Rubio had 14 points, eight assists and six steals for the Timberwolves who lost their sixth consecutive contest. Minnesota dropped to 4-22 in their last 26 games.

Minnesota was without star forward Kevin Love, who had surgery to repair a broken right hand. Centre Nikola Pekovic also skipped Monday's contest with a abdominal strain. Starting forward Andrei Kirilenko is also out with a strained calf muscle.

J.J. Barea had four points and was tossed from the game in the final quarter after tangling with Allen.

Barea bodychecked Allen as he was driving to the basket, knocking the former Boston Celtic to the floor. Allen got up quickly and charged towards Barea before players from both teams got between the two.

After the ejection, Miami went on a 17-5 run to put the game out of reach for the Timberwolves.

Minnesota coach Rick Adelman tried to argue the flagrant one call on Barea but was slapped with a technical foul of his own.

Miami dominated Minnesota 58-32 in the paint, finishing with 24 dunks or layups out of a total of 38 field goals.

The Heat now head back home for four straight games against Orlando, Philadelphia, Indiana and Atlanta.

In Cleveland Amare Stoudemire scored 22 points as the New York Knicks overcame the loss of top-scorer Carmelo Anthony and a double-digit deficit to beat Cleveland 102-97 also Monday.

The Knicks lost Anthony to a right knee injury in the second quarter. He did not return after tripping over his own feet while trying to catch a long pass at mid-court

Murdoch's Fox unveils sports network to rival ESPN



NEW YORK (AFP) - Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. on Tuesday announced plans for a new multi-sport network for the US market called Fox Sports 1 to challenge ESPN's dominance.

The launch had been widely anticipated as the conglomerate pursues a plan to split its publishing operations from its film and entertainment units.

"Our secret, admittedly a very poorly kept one, is now revealed," said Fox Sports Media Group co-president Eric Shanks.

"Fans are ready for an alternative to the establishment and our goal for FS1 is to provide the best in-game experience possible complemented by informative news, entertaining studio shows and provocative original programming."

To launch August 17, the new network will include Major League Baseball, college basketball, American football, Ultimate Fighting Championship, Nascar racing and international football matches.

The network will also carry sports news and talk and a nightly roundup.

A morning newscast is expected to launch in January 2014 in conjunction with the network's coverage of Super Bowl XLVIII.

"Building credibility and trust with our audience is paramount, so naturally we'll provide the staples, like news, scores and highlights, but we'll do it in a Fox Sports way," said Shanks.

The firm said a regular feature on the network will be the "double box" commercial format, in which ads and live action are on the same screen.

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Baseball: Taiwan, Netherlands into WBC second round



Robbie Cordemans turned in five shutout innings for the Netherlands.

FUKUOKA, Japan (AFP) - Taiwan joined the Netherlands in the World Baseball Classic second round Tuesday despite defeat to 2009 finalists South Korea, who suffered their earliest exit in the competition.

At a packed Taichung Intercontinental Baseball Stadium, the co-hosts went down 2-3 to South Korea, one of the tournament favourites, but still progressed top of Pool B courtesy of their superior scoring record.

Two-time defending champions Japan, who hosted Pool A and will hold the second round in Tokyo from Friday, are already through along with

Cuba. Two teams from the Asian second round will contest the final series in San Francisco later this month.

Apart from the qualifying teams, there was also jubilation for China, who shocked Brazil 5-2 to finish third in Pool A and guarantee their spot at the 2017 World Baseball Classic, a major boost for the sport in the huge country.

"It's just a great feeling," China manager John McLaren said, according to the tournament website.

"I congratulated the team, and I told them to go home and tell everybody in China what a great feeling it is to

play baseball and spread the word," he added.

In Taichung, the points calculation equalled heartbreak for South Korea, who found themselves 0-2 down in the bottom of the eighth and needing eight runs to reach the second round for the third straight time.

Lee Dae-Ho hit a single for 1-2 and then Kang Jung-Ho added a two-run homer, but any hopes of an amazing revival faded out when Kang Min-Ho swung out.

Earlier, Ling Chih-sheng hit a single to get Yang Dai-kang back home to open the scoring in the third inning, while Kuo Yen-wen hit a double, followed by Yang Dai-kang's timely single to make it 2-0 in the fourth.

Pool B could barely have been tighter, with Taiwan, the Netherlands and South Korea all ending with identical 2-1 records. The Netherlands, packed with players from Dutch Antilles, beat Australia 4-1 to seal their progression.

Starting pitcher Robbie Cordemans kept the Australian batters quiet, while Jonathan Schoop belted a two-run home run.

"Robbie pitched a great game. Five innings and no runs," said Dutch head coach Hensley Meulens. "That was the key to our win today."

Outfielder Roger Bernadina earned the first run by hitting a single to the centre field in the first inning, and the Netherlands stretched the lead to 4-0 in the bottom of the second.

Curt Smith led off with a single to the centre, followed by a single from Dashenko Ricardo before they advanced to the second and third bases on an error. Smith came back

after Andrelton Simmons grounded out.

Then Schoop launched his two-run homer to the left. Australia pulled one back when infielder Brad Harman hit a single to the left to welcome Stefan Welch from the second base in the seventh inning.

In Fukuoka, China were trailing 0-2 in the bottom of the eighth inning, before they pulled one back on a walk with the three bases occupied. Fourth batter Ray Chang then stepped up and fired a two-run single to the left for a 3-2 lead.



South Korea were knocked out in the group stages despite a 3-2 victory over hosts Taiwan



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